Campus of IIT at Madurai and Coimbatore

792. SHRIC. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up campus of Indian Institute of Technology at Madurai and Coimbatore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir, (b) and (c) Does not arise.

UGC's module on research and interaction

793. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that UGC is working on a module to make live research part of undergraduate and interaction between scientific institutes and university students mandatory for post-graduate studies;

(b) if so, whether any additional financial resources would be required for the same or the existing financial outlays would take care of this; and

(c) whether interaction with industrial houses would be better than scientific institutes, with a view to increase employment potential of students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) A Task Force was set up by the Government for strengthening basic science education and research within the existing university system. Recommendations, *inter-alia,* include promotion of formal linkages between the Universities and national level institutions including CSIR laboratories through joint research projects and training and, to have an inbuilt component of research in post-graduate programmes pertaining to Science and Technology. The report has been given to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for further action. A proposal for enhanced plan allocation for this purpose, among others, has been sent to the Planning Commission.